

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 146

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Roan Mountain State Park upon being named the 2016 State Park of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize Tennessee's State parks and their natural, cultural, and historic heritage; and

WHEREAS, Roan Mountain State Park in Carter County is one such state park, which was recently named the 2016 State Park of the Year by Tennessee State Parks, a branch of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, for its excellence in innovation, sustainability, interpretation, resource management, and fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, located at the base of the majestic 6,285 foot Roan Mountain, Roan Mountain State Park encompasses more than 2,000 acres dominated by rich hardwood forest along rugged ridges; the cool, clear Doe River winds its way through the center of the park, and abundant wildflowers and wildlife inhabit the hollows and ridges of the Roan foothills; and

WHEREAS, in September 1780, the Overmountain Men trekked through what is now Roan Mountain State Park on their way to the Battle of King's Mountain, a turning point in the Revolutionary War; the park land bears the marks of early mining ventures, farming, logging, and the old homesteads and cemeteries of the families that settled the area; and

WHEREAS, rich in heritage and history, Roan Mountain State Park is home to the Miller Farmstead, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015; the barn, which is believed to have been built in 1870, was named as one of the Top Ten Most Endangered Sites in Tennessee by the Tennessee Preservation Trust in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Roan Mountain State Park staff recently completed the preservation of the 1907 Miller farm house and added a living history component to interpret the roles of early miners, farmsteaders, and elite vacationers; and

WHEREAS, a strong resource for health and wellness, Roan Mountain State Park boasts numerous ways for visitors to enjoy the outdoors, including swimming, fishing, hiking, and biking; and

WHEREAS, Roan Mountain State Park was recently named an Appalachian Trail Community, only the second community in the State to receive this designation; this recognition highlights the park as a premier destination for hikers to access the Appalachian Trail; and

WHEREAS, Roan Mountain State Park partnered with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in an aggressive invasive garlic mustard management program, removing garlic mustard from the park in order to preserve the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, one of fifty-six State parks, Roan Mountain State Park has expanded its recycling program, added a new birds of prey aviary, and installed new trail signage, while continuing to manage the native grass and wildflower fields; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Carter County Tourism Association and Roan Mountain Citizens Club, Roan Mountain State Park has expanded its marketing, created a winter destination market for the park, and begun an advanced overnight Junior Ranger camp; and

WHEREAS, countless individuals, including park rangers, state officials, volunteers, sportsmen, and outdoorsmen, have labored to sustain the natural beauty and integrity of Tennessee at the Roan Mountain State Park; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the elected officials of this estimable State, one rich in a great diversity of natural and cultural resources, recognize and commend the dedicated servants who serve as stewards of our natural environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the staff and administration of Roan Mountain State Park upon being named the 2016 State Park of the Year and extend to them our best wishes for success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.